

## Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /116 W  
----- 046362

P R 082111Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7197

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5001

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR (6'9 3 )903" 43&-)

SUBJECT: LOPEZ REGA'S POSITION

REF: BA-4894

1. SUMMARY: AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON JULY 8 INDICATED THAT LOPEZ REGA HAD BEEN NAMED SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT. FEELINGS IN OTHER QUARTERS CONTINUE TO RUN HIGH AGAINST HIM. AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, NONETHELESS, HE SEEMS TO BE IN A STRONG POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. OBSERVERS WHO ARE HOPING MRS PERON WILL CURB LOPEZ REGA'S DISPROPORTIONATE INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT WERE ENCOURAGED OVER THE WEEKEND WHEN IT WAS REPORTED THAT HE WOULD BE MOVING OUT OF OLIVOS, THAT HE WOULD NOT BE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE NEW PRESIDENT, AND WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HE AND MRS PERON HAD NOT GONE TO CHAPADMALAL BEACH RESORT TOGETHER FOR THE WEEKEND. NONE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS MEANT MUCH IN AND OF THEMSELVES, BUT SOME HOPED THEY AT LEAST REPRESENTED STRAWS IN THE WIND, THAT IS, AGAINST LOPEZ REGA.

3. SUCH HOPES WERE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY DASHED TODAY (JULY 8)  
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BY AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT LOPEZ REGA WILL INDEED BECOME

MRS PERON'S PRIVATE SECRETARY. THE PRECISE NATURE OF HIS DUTIES ARE NOT YET CLEAR, BUT WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY ARE BOUND TO RESULT IN INCREASED POWERS FOR HIM. HE MAY BE ABLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO CONTROL APPOINTMENTS WITH MRS PERON TO AN EVEN GREATER EXTENT THAN HE CONTROLLED APPOINTMENTS WITH HER HUSBAND.

4. ONE DISGRUNTLED MEMBER OF THE UCR COMMENTED THAT WHILE EVERYONE WOULD SUPPORT MRS PERON FOR A TIME BECAUSE SHE REPRESENTED CONSTITUTIONALISM, IF SHE INSISTS ON MAKING LOPEZ REGA THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE, THE UCR, FOR ONE, WOULD BEGIN TO WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT. THIS, HE SAID, REPRESENTED THE ATTITUDE OF THE ENTIRE UCR, INCLUDING BOTH BALBIN AND ALFONSIN.

5. A PERONIST CONTACT REPORTS THAT LOPEZ REGA IS ALREADY MANEUVERING TO PLACE SOME OF HIS MEN IN KEY POSITIONS--THOUGH SOURCE WOULD NOT BE MORE SPECIFIC AS TO WHICH POSITIONS HE HAD REFERENCE.

6. CLEARLY, LOPEZ REGA INTENDS TO MAKE A FIGHT OF IT. IF MRS PERON BACKS HIM, HE MAY WELL BE ABLE TO HANG ON FOR SOME TIME. FOR SOME WEEKS AND POSSIBLY EVEN LONGER, NO ONE WILL WISH TO MOVE AGAINST HER FOR FEAR OF OFFENDING PERON'S MEMORY AND FOR A PRAGMATIC RESPECT FOR THE AURA OF LEGITIMATE CONSTITUTIONAL SUCCESSOR WHICH SHE NOW ENJOYS.

7. ON THE OTHER HAND, LOPEZ REGA DOES NOT HAVE A POWER BASE. ALL SECTORS ARE AGAINST HIM. HE MAY PLACE SOME OF HIS COHORTS IN KEY POSTS, BUT BUILDING A REAL BASE IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. INEVITABLY, THEN, HE AND MRS PERON WOULD BEGIN TO LOSE SUPPORT. AND IF LOPEZ REGA IS TRUE TO FORM, HE WILL INVOLVE HIMSELF IN ACTIONS WHICH WOULD TEND TO DILUTE THE AURA OF LEGITIMACY WHICH MRS PERON NOW HAS. AT THAT POINT, WHETHER IT BE WEEKS OR EVEN MANY MONTHS FROM NOW, THEIR POSITION WOULD LIKELY BECOME UNTENABLE.

8. THE OVERALL CONCLUSION, THEN, IS AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL: MRS PERON MUST CURB LOPEZ REGA OR RISK LOSING SUPPORT. ONE PERONIST SOURCE REPORTS THAT MRS PERON RECENTLY COMMENTED TO NORMA KENNEDY (A PERONIST FEMINIST LEADER) THAT SHE UNDERSTANDS LOPEZ REGA WILL COST HER WHATEVER POPULARITY SHE HAS. APPARENTLY, HOWEVER, HE MAY HAVE BEEN AROUND HER TOO LONG AND THE FORCE OF HABIT MAY BE TOO STRONG FOR HER TO THROW HIM OVER.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** martinml  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BA-4894  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by martinml>  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LOPEZ REGA'S POSITION  
**TAGS:** PINT, AR, (PERON, MARIA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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